IN THE CLAIMS

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of customizing a rule-based application, the method comprising:

designating a customizable element of a set as a customizable template by inserting a template modifier before the customizable element in source code for the rule-based application, the customizable element being selected by a first ~~end-user~~ end user;

compiling said customizable element into at least one object to form a ruleset;

parsing said set to detect said customizable element designated as a customizable template;

customizing said customizable element under instruction from a second end user different from the first end user; and

enabling editing of said rule-based application during runtime processing of said ruleset in an environment in which said rule-based application executes.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said set comprises a ruleset.

3.   (Cancelled)

4.   (Cancelled)

5.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said customizable element comprises a variable.

6.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said customizable element comprises a rule.

7.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said customizable element comprises a ruleset.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising designating a ruleset of said set as a customizable ruleset template.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising generating a customized ruleset from the customizable ruleset template.

10.   (Cancelled)

11.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising enabling customization in a development environment.

12.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising re-editing a previously generated rule.

13.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein a new ruleset is generated from a customizable ruleset template, and a pre-existing customizable rule template is associated with said new ruleset and is unchanged.

14. – 31. (Cancelled)

32.   (Currently Amended) A method of customizing a rule-based application, the method comprising:
    designating a customizable element of a set as a customizable template by inserting a template modifier before the customizable element in source code for the rule-based application, the customizable element being selected by a first end-user end user, where the customizable element is one of: a variable, a rule, or a ruleset;
    compiling said customizable element into at least one object to form a ruleset;
    parsing said set to detect said customizable element designated as a customizable template;
    customizing said customizable element under instruction from a second end user different from the first end user; and

editing said customizable element during runtime processing of said ruleset in an environment in which the rule-based application executes, where said editing comprises generating a new ruleset from a customizable ruleset template, and where a pre-existing customizable rule template is associated with said new ruleset and is unchanged.

33.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein the designating comprises:

setting a constraint on valid values for the customizable element.

34.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 33, wherein the valid values comprise a discrete list of one or more valid values.

35.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 33, wherein the valid values comprise a range of values.

36.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said enabling comprises:

carrying information about said customizable element along with run-time instantiations of ruleset objects.